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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-77 (Cancelled)

78. (Currently amended) A Fibre Channel interface unit for interfacing an output device with a plurality of nodes in a Fibre Channel network, the interface unit comprising:

a plurality of input interfaces coupled to the nodes to passively listen for frames communicated between the nodes, the frames formatted in accordance with a Fibre Channel protocol, the input interfaces further configured to examine source and destination addresses of the frames in order to extract data wanted by the output device and eliminate data not wanted by the output device, each interface providing filtered data that is wanted by the output device; and

an output interface configured to [[place]] format the filtered data from the input interfaces in accordance with a pulse code modulated (PCM) protocol and place the formatted data into at least one a single, lower speed output stream that is formatted for the output device in accordance with a protocol other than Fibre Channel;

wherein the output interface fills PCM frames with a fill word when a frame of data is not available from the input interface.

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79. (Currently amended) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein at least one of the input interfaces and the output interface is further configured to time tag frames of the filtered data.

80. (Currently amended) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein <u>at least one output</u> the single stream is formatted for an avionics system.

81. (Currently amended) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein <u>at least one output</u> the single-stream is formatted for a radar system.

82. (Currently amended) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein <u>at least one output</u> the single-stream is formatted for a flight recorder.

83. (Currently amended) The interface unit of Claim 78, wherein <u>at least one output</u> the single-stream is formatted for a telemetry device.

84. (Previously presented) The interface unit of Claim 78, further comprising a processor coupled to the input interfaces and the output interface, the processor configured to program the filtering by the input interfaces.

85. (Canceled)

86. (Canceled)

87. (Previously presented) The interface unit of claim 78, further comprising a plurality of terminations for coupling the input interfaces to the nodes.

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88. (Currently amended) A method for collecting avionics data for an aircraft
output device, the method comprising:

passively listening for frames communicated between a plurality of nodes in a Fibre
Channel local area network, the frames formatted in accordance with a
Fibre Channel protocol;

selecting avionics data wanted by the output device, including examining
source and destination addresses of the frames in order to extract avionics
data specific to the output device and eliminate data not wanted by the output
device; [[and]]

placing the filtered data into a single, at least one lower speed output stream
that is formatted for the output device in accordance with a pulse code
modulated (PCM) protocol; and other than Fibre Channel.

filling PCM frames with a fill word when a frame of data is not available
on the network.

89. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, further comprising time
tagging the filtered data.

90. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 88, further comprising using
the output device to record the filtered data.

91. (Canceled)

92. (Canceled)

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